A RETURN of the NAMES of the CLERKS of ROADS and CLERKS of EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS in *Ireland*; stating the several Offices they hold, exclusive of the Office of CLERKS of the ROADS and CLERKS of EXPRESS, their ordinary places of Residence, and the Amount of annual SALARY and EMOLUMENTS which they receive from those Offices, exclusive of the Profits and Emoluments derived from the supply of NEWSPAPERS, in the year 1831.

NAMES.	Offices, exclusive of the Clerks of Roads and Clerks of Express Papers.	Ordinary Residence.	Annual official Salary.	Annual fixed Allowance as Clerks of Roads, guaranteed by Government.	Annual Emoluments.	Profit from Newspapers, in lieu of fixed Allowance as Clerks of Roads.	
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Express Clerks, to 5th April 1831:							
Henry Clare - -	-- Senior Clerk, British-mail Office.	-- Great Britain-street.	184 12 4	- - -	267 13 6	- - -	The late Clerks of Roads.
Robert B. West -	-- Ditto, in Inland and Dead-letter Offices.	Richmond -	369 4 8	- - -	133 16 9	- - -	
Clerks of Roads in 1831. To the 5th April 1831:							
Sir Edward S. Lees -	Secretary - -	-- Gen[l] Post-office.	399 19 8	783 15 1	123 16 2	- - -	
S. Dejoncourt - -	-- Vice-President, Inland Office.	-- Marlborough-street.	207 13 10	483 3 1	- - -	- - -	
F. Harvey - -	Ditto - - ditto -	Glo'ster-street -	207 13 10	377 1 4	- - -	- - -	
Thomas O. Lees -	-- Chief Clerk, Secretary's Office - -	-- Mount Sackville.	221 10 8	348 18 11	109 3 4	- - -	
From 6th April 1831:							
John Burrowes -	-- Superintending-President, Inland Office.	-- Gen[l] Post-office.	380 - -	- - -	- - -	241 1 2	The present Clerks of Roads.
S. Dejoncourt - -	-- Senior Clerk and Vice-President, ditto.	-- Marlborough-street.	350 - -	- - -	- - -	174 18 8	
Henry Clare - -	Senior Clerk - ditto -	-- Great Britain-street.	300 - -	- - -	- - -	160 19 8	
Robert B. West -	Ditto - - ditto -	Richmond -	230 - -	- - -	- - -	142 18 9	
William Heron - -	Ditto and Vice-President - - - ditto.	Clontarf -	260 - -	- - -	- - -	139 5 1	
John Hobden - -	Senior Clerk - ditto -	Killester -	230 - -	- - -	- - -	105 15 8	
Edward Dejoncourt -	Ditto - - ditto -	-- Marlborough-street.	230 - -	- - -	- - -	92 14 1	
Edward Daily - -	Ditto - - ditto -	Dorset-street -	230 - -	- - -	- - -	86 10 8	

Inland Office,
21st March 1832.

John Burrowes,
Superintending President.

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—(2.)—

COPIES of CORRESPONDENCE between the General Post-Office in London, and Messrs. *Johnston* of *Dublin*, so far as the same can be made out.

SCHEDULE.

COPY of a LETTER, dated 28 November 1831, from his Grace the Duke of Richmond, Postmaster-General, to John Kent Johnston, of Dublin.

There is no such Letter.

No
1.—Letter from J. K. Johnston to the Duke of Richmond, dated 29 January 1832 - p. 2
2.—Letter from J. K. Johnston to the Duke of Richmond, dated 4 February 1832 - p. 3
3.—Letter from J. K. Johnston to Sir F. Freeling, dated 12 November 1831 - - p. 3
4.—Letter from Sir F. Freeling to J. K. Johnston, dated 17 November 1831 - - p. 5
5.—Letter from J. K. Johnston to Sir F. Freeling, dated 18 November 1831 - - p. 5
6.—Letter from J. K. Johnston to Sir F. Freeling, dated 19 November 1831 - - p. 6
7.—Letter from Sir F. Freeling to J. K. Johnston, dated 1 December 1831 - - p. 7
8.—Letter from A. Johnston, Jun. to Sir F. Freeling, dated 18 February 1832 - - p. 7
9.—Letter from Sir F. Freeling to A. Johnston, Jun., dated 27 February 1832 - - p. 8

No. 1.

LETTER from *J. K. Johnston*, to the Duke of *Richmond*, dated 29 January 1832.

My Lord Duke,

I HAD hoped, from the interview with which I was honoured by your Grace on the 28th November last, that a check would have been put on the proceedings of the clerks of roads, as fully detailed to your Grace; and although I am aware of instructions being given to those individuals to withdraw their inimical circular, yet those instructions went unheeded, as the page of the enclosed almanack will show. On the advertisement therein set forth, I beg most respectfully to make two observations, that your Grace may be in possession fully of localities. First, and most particular, *no* charge for postage or carriage:—well may they set *that* forth, as it is a positive fact that their printed circulars from the provincial postmasters, a copy of which I left with your Grace, used to come up from the various deputies untaxed, in fact free, till accidentally discovered by a conscientious officer (in no way connected or concerned with the clerks of roads), who took one of the said circulars so untaxed to Mr. Godby, who acted officially thereon: so much for the president and senior officers of the inland department having an interest in the supplying of newspapers, forgetting the revenue in the furtherance of their private interests. Secondly, that a copy of that advertisement printed on yellow paper (one of which I have) is posted on the window of every post-town in Ireland, and not only posted but a supply is in the hands of the postmasters, who have instructions from the clerks of roads to send a copy thereof to every individual getting a newspaper through any other channel than them, allowing at the same time to the deputy a commission on the business done, thereby identifying the Post-office establishment at large in their newspaper trade. Furthermore, I am advised by my customers in different

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different parts of the country, that papers supplied by the clerks of roads (which bear a red impress "from the clerks of roads") *are served first*, in preference to all others. I will simply ask your Grace, can these proceedings be suffered to continue?

Previous to concluding, I think it right to mention I am without any reply from Sir Francis Freeling to my letters of the 12th, 18th, 19th November, concerning points in which my interests are very particularly involved.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c. &c.

J. K. Johnston,
Eden Quay.

No. 2.

LETTER from *J. K. Johnston*, to the Duke of *Richmond*, dated 4 February 1832.

My Lord,

IN reference to the interview with which I was honoured by your Grace on 28th November last, when you were pleased to say that "No officer of the Post-office had any business to follow the mails" (with newspapers, as in the case of Mr. Fisher) "after they had left the General Post-office," and to the letter I recently addressed to your Grace enclosing one of Smith's Almanacks, wherein the prohibited advertisement of the clerks of roads was published, I regret being obliged so soon again to trouble your Grace, but I deem it imperative on me to acquaint you as Postmaster-general with the course pursued yesterday by those officers in the Post-office: the London mail arrived at the General Post-office in this city yesterday at 1.22 p.m., and at half-past one o'clock the clerks of roads despatched Mr. James Kendrick, an *officer* of the *inland department*, with the papers for their customers at Cork, made up in a parcel addressed to *the Postmaster*, to overtake the mid-day mail, which left Dublin at 12 o'clock.

I was consequently, in my own defence, compelled to pursue the same course; and in the endeavour to compete with official monopoly at the hands of already well-paid public servants, put a second time to the expense of 4 *l.* 15 *s.*, besides the loss of time and services of my messenger. But, my Lord, I beg particularly to direct your Grace's attention to the fact that the clerks of roads considered the management of their private newspaper trade of importance paramount to the despatch of the public business; because they on *this* occasion took Mr. Kendrick from the special evening and morning duties he had to perform in the inland office, that he might be the bearer of their newspapers to Athy, where the mail was come up with (42 miles from Dublin); while no later than the 28th December last, when a portion of the mail for Cork was not sent forward by the mid-day, but was left behind, owing to the neglect of the acting president then on duty, who is a clerk of road, on *that* occasion a common mail-guard was deemed sufficient to secure to the public the safe conduct of their interests; and so little expedition was *then* used, that the correspondence so forwarded was only one hour earlier in Cork than that forwarded by the night-mail from Dublin.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(signed) *John Kent Johnston.*

No. 3.

LETTER from *J. K. Johnston*, to Sir *F. Freeling*, dated Chapter Coffee-house, St. Paul's Church-yard, 12th Nov. 1831;—Two Enclosures.

Sir,

I BEG leave to trouble you with a copy of a letter I received this morning from Dublin, from the secretary of the Limerick Club, complaining that that establishment did not receive in course any of the London papers of Saturday last,

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supplied by me (Johnston & Co.), while the different other institutions in that city, who take their papers through the clerks of roads in Dublin, received theirs. I am aware, being in Dublin at the time, that the London mail was very late in reaching that city on last Monday, not arriving till, I believe, 6.40 p.m., consequently 40 minutes after the prescribed hour of general transmission; but having been officially informed at the General Post-office in Dublin, and confirmed by Mr. Campbell of the London office, that the clerks of the roads should possess no advantage in transmission of newspapers to the *interior of Ireland*, over me or any of the trade, in fact that their papers should not go forward when others would not, I respectfully hope that you, Sir, may be pleased to direct the cause of detention to be explained as regards my papers, and why the clerks of roads' were transmitted, as the existence of such a privilege in their favour must ultimately be attended by my total ruin.

As I shall not leave town for some days yet, I need hardly say I will be much obliged by and anxiously look for a reply hereto, after the answer from Dublin be received.

I have the honour to be respectfully, Sir,
Your very obedient servant,

(signed) *John Kemp Johnston.*

P.S. I enclose a note from Messrs. Newbery & Terry, my agents, respecting the papers of 5th inst. to the Limerick Club.

(Enclosure, No. 1.)

LETTER from *D. Fitzgerald*, Esq. to Messrs. *Johnston & Co.*, dated Limerick, 8 Nov. 1831.

Gentlemen,

NONE of the London papers due this day have come to the Limerick Club; all the other public establishments received their papers; the Commercial Buildings, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Limerick Institution, &c. &c. all duly arrived. It seems very strange that the papers ordered through your house have not also come; and in consequence of the frequent disappointments, I will not be allowed to continue receiving them through your house after this quarter, which I very much regret. I am directed to make this communication to you this day. I troubled you with a letter yesterday, ordering some advertisements to be inserted.

Your very obedient servant,

(signed) *David Fitzgerald.*

(Enclosure, No. 2.)

LETTER from Messrs. *Newbery & Co.* to Messrs. *Johnston & Co.*, dated Hatton Garden, 12 November 1831.

Dear Sir,

IN reply to your letter, complaining of the non-arrival of papers to the Limerick Club-house, we can state with confidence that the papers were duly forwarded by us to the General Post-office on the 5th instant, in due time for transmission, directed as per enclosed cover.

Yours truly,

Newbery & Terry.

If necessary, could make oath of same.

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No. 4.

LETTER from Sir *F. Freeling* to *J. K. Johnston*, dated General Post-office, 17 November 1831.

Sir,

AS one of my clerks has represented to me that you expressed your intention to remain in town until you ascertained the result of your recent application, I beg to state, in order to prevent any inconvenience to yourself, that although I have received a letter from Dublin this day, I find it my duty to make other inquiries in Ireland, with the view to obtain the fullest information on the subject, so that I may be enabled to place the whole before the Postmaster-general as soon as circumstances will admit.

I am, &c. &c.

F. Freeling, Secretary.

No. 5.

LETTER from *J. K. Johnston* to Sir *Francis Freeling*, Bart., dated Chapter Coffee-house, St. Paul's Church-yard, 18 Nov. 1831 ;—(Two Enclosures.)

Sir,

I THANK you for your kind attention to my communication: since I had the honour to address you, I have received a letter from Dublin, enclosing a copy of a letter (from Johnston & Co.) to, and the answer of Mr. Godby, relative to the delay of the papers for the Limerick club, occasioned by the late arrival of the London mail in Dublin on the 7th instant.

You will see from that Gentleman's admission, the advantage the clerks of the roads possess in having their papers forwarded in a separate bag, which affords them every possible facility, and renders all attempts at fair competition on my part unavailing. I think it right, Sir, to intimate to you, that I have prepared copies of a recent correspondence with Mr. Godby, on the unfair, unjust, and I will add, unwarrantable means adopted by the clerks of the roads in Ireland, for the forwarding their newspaper business, which I have placed in the hands of my friend Sir John Milley Doyle, M. P., who has kindly undertaken to lay the same before his Grace the Duke of Richmond. To the privilege enjoyed by the clerks of roads I have no right to object; but as being destructive to my interests, I most respectfully protest against such abuses of that privilege as I now charge upon them.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(signed) *John Kent Johnston.*

(Enclosure, No. 1.)

LETTER from Messrs *Johnston & Co.* to *A. Godby*, Esq., dated Eden-quay, Dublin, 10 Nov. 1831.

Sir,

WE received a letter yesterday from the secretary of the Limerick Club, dated 8th instant (Tuesday), in which he states, *none* of the London papers due this day have come to the Limerick Club; all the other public establishments received their papers; the Commercial Buildings, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Limerick Institution, &c. &c. all duly arrived. We shall feel much obliged by your acquainting us the cause of the papers supplied by us having been detained, whilst those through other channels were forwarded.

We remain, Sir, &c. &c.

Johnston & Co.

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(Enclosure, No. 2.)

LETTER from *A. Godby*, Esq. to *J. K. Johnston*, dated General Post-office, Dublin, 11 Nov. 1831.

Sir,

YOU are aware that the London mail did not arrive at this office on Monday evening last till a quarter before seven o'clock, and that at that hour it would have been quite impossible to sort and forward the letters and papers for the interior of Ireland, which arrived here in the ordinary bags, without very serious and injurious delay to the mails, and they were in consequence despatched precisely at their usual hour; but the clerks of the roads, who receive their papers in a separate bag, were enabled to forward some of them by the coaches, but not in the letter-bags.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

(signed) *A Godby.*

No. 6.

LETTER from *J. K. Johnston* to Sir *F. Freeling*, dated Chapter Coffee-house, St. Paul's Church-yard, 19 Nov. 1831.

Sir,

MY brother states the following circumstance, in a letter received this morning, which I deem imperative to lay before you.

"The London mail did not arrive here (in Dublin) last evening, Wednesday, till 5.52 p.m. The alphabet was not opened, or the carriers despatched, till seven o'clock. On receiving the papers, I made up those for Cork in a parcel, and followed the mail, coming up with it in James-street: the coachman at first hesitated to take the parcel, the guard desiring him not, on which I told the guard it was a parcel, and he had nothing to do with it" (from the manner in which my brother narrates the particulars, the coach must have been *still going on*), on which the guard said, he had directions to take the parcel; but my brother said it was no consequence, it was merely a parcel, and it having been received by the coachman, he turned round for home; but on his way back it occurred to him strange that the guard was desired to take the parcel, on which he wheeled about to again overtake the coach, and on coming up with it, questioned the guard, who replied, "*he was desired, in case a person should overtake the mail on horseback, to take the parcels*, and DROP THEM IN THE POST-OFFICE AT RATHCOOLE." On inquiring, if he did so, would they go forward that post, he said they would not.

Without going into the question whether it were proper to receive the parcel at all (but when it is permitted in England for the mails to take parcels on the road in the same manner, I presume there can be no objection in Ireland), I would beg leave to ask who gave the guard directions to receive the parcels, but to drop them in the post-office at Rathcoole? *Not* Mr. Godby, I am satisfied. Who then took on himself the power of so instructing the guard, when Mr. Godby, the representative of the Postmaster-general, was in Dublin? And, Sir, had my brother opened the parcel, and given the two bundles (for there were only two) therein contained to the guard, confiding in his being a public servant in the Post-office establishment, resting satisfied they would have been forwarded by the coach, we would not only have been grossly deceived, our business injured, but what is of far more consequence, the great body of the merchants of the commercial city of Cork disappointed. This circumstance is occasioned by the "Cork Chamber of Commerce," and "Commercial Buildings," having been pleased to transfer their custom recently to us; and to prevent their being disappointed, we are necessitated to guard against the chance of their papers being detained in Dublin, as in the case of the Limerick Club, by having their papers sent in the first instance to ourselves

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selves in Dublin, resorting to parcels thence to Cork, that the interests of the merchants of that city should not suffer by patronising us trading individuals in supplying their newspapers, at considerably reduced prices to those they had hitherto been paying to, we hesitate not to say, the clerks of roads.

I am well assured that his Grace the Postmaster-general will protect our interests as traders, by prohibiting the recurrence of such undue official interference as herein stated.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(signed) *John Kent Johnston.*

No. 7.

LETTER from Sir *F. Freeling* to *J. K. Johnston*, dated General Post-office, 1 December 1831.

Sir,

HAVING represented to the Duke of Richmond that you have repeatedly called here for an answer to your application, I have received his Grace's commands to refer you to the personal communication made to you by his Grace when he received you in Cavendish-square.

I am, &c. &c.

(signed) *F. Freeling*, Secretary.

No. 8.

LETTER from Mr. *A. Johnston*, Jun., to Sir *F. Freeling*, dated Chapter Coffee-house, St. Paul's Church-yard, 18 February 1832.

Sir,

I BEG to acquaint you, that our (Johnston & Co.) bag, containing newspapers and periodicals, directed to us at Howth has been detained by the mate of the steam-packet, and handed by him to Messrs. Elliot's (parcel agents) servant, who conveys it to Dublin. These gentlemen state that they are acting under the instructions of Mr. Goddard, Post-office agent at Holyhead, and unless authorised by him cannot deliver it at Howth; and they have written to that gentlemen, who has referred to you for your directions how to act.

I can hardly think it necessary to point out to you the extreme hardship of our case: that a parcel (or bag) the carriage and freight, &c. of which is paid by us, and the additional expense of having a confidential person to receive it at Howth, is not to be delivered to us *there* where it is directed, but to be conveyed to Dublin, and there told that the power rests with the General Post-office—now, Sir, give me leave to ask, if this be the case, may it not be carried to Cork, Belfast or elsewhere? To prevent delay, expedition being our object, we have delivered to the proper officer of customs at Howth a key which opens our bag, and on his examining and discharging it, we consider we are then fully entitled to receive it; and therefore beg you will instruct Mr. Goddard, by this night's post, to cause it to be delivered to us at Howth on Monday morning, to prevent further delay. With this expectation,

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(signed) *Alex. Johnston*, Jun.

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No. 9.

LETTER from Sir *F. Freeling* to Mr. *A. Johnston*, Jun., dated General Post-office, 27 February 1832.

Sir,

I AM commanded by the Postmaster-General to inform you, that having made the necessary inquiries at Holyhead, his Grace does not consider it expedient to make any alteration in the long-established rules and regulations as to the conveyance and landing of parcels sent by His Majesty's packets from that port, as desired by your letter to me of the 18th instant.

I am, &c. &c.

(signed) *F. Freeling*, Secretary.

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POST-OFFICE, IRELAND.

RETURN of the NAMES of the CLERKS OF ROADS and CLERKS OF EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS in *Ireland*; and COPIES of CORRESPONDENCE between the POST-OFFICE and Messrs. *Johnston* of *Dublin*.

(Mr. Hume.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
16 *April* 1832.

392.

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